

VACATION SAFETY TIPS

Sight Seeing

- Take a business card or a book of matches with the name, address, and phone number of the hotel/motel.
- Ask for directions at a hotel/motel on how to get to those attractions you want to visit.
- Ask if there any areas of town to avoid.
- Select your guides carefully. Ask hotel/motel for recommendations.
- Stick to well-lighted main streets and public areas.
- Only carry cash you will need, and only in small denominations.

Hotel and Motel Security

When staying overnight at a hotel or motel, remember the following:

- Determine the most direct route to and from your room, to the fire escapes, elevators, and nearest phone.
- When occupying or leaving your room, use all locking devices on doors and windows.
- Open the door only if you are certain that the person has a legitimate reason to enter your room. If in doubt, call the front desk.

VACATION SAFETY TIPS

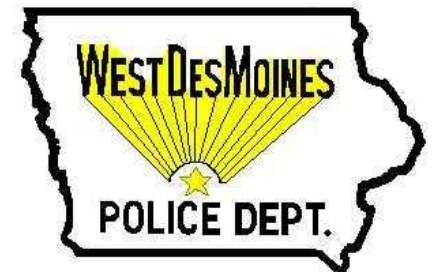
- Suitcases should be locked so they cannot be used to carry your property out of your room.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards or car keys in the room. Take them with you.
- Place extra cash, expensive jewelry or other valuables (furs, gems, gold, or silver) in the hotel/motel safe.
- Report any lost or stolen items to the hotel/motel management and to the police.
- Report to the management any suspicious movements in the corridors or rooms.

www.wdm-ia.com



West Des Moines Police Department
West Des Moines, IA 50265
(515) 222-3333

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Before Leaving

- It's a good idea to let someone you trust/neighbor know where you are going, contact information and when you will return. Allow plenty of travel time so that you don't have to rush.
- Have a trusted friend/neighbor pick up mail and/or deliveries. Make arrangements for the lawn to be mowed or snow to be removed.
- Give your house a "lived-in" appearance by using timers to run lights and a radio on and off during various hours.



On the Road

- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Stay alert and be aware of what is happening around you and where you are at all times. Take immediate action to remove yourself from any potentially dangerous situations.
- If you are being followed or harassed, drive to the nearest public place and call law enforcement.
- Always wear your seatbelt, drive with your doors locked, and if possible the windows rolled up.

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Emergency Kit

- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. Some basic items include:
 - Local and State Maps
 - List of phone numbers
 - Flashlight
 - Road Flares or Reflectors
 - Extra Set of Key Cars
 - Jumper Cables
 - Blankets
 - Screwdrivers and Pliers
 - Fire Extinguisher
 - Duct Tape
 - Extra Emergency Cash
 - Cold Weather Gear
- Never carry large amounts of cash; use travelers checks. Do not display money openly.
- Keep a record of your traveler's check numbers and credit card numbers in a safe place. Have the telephone numbers to call in case they are lost or stolen.
- Take only credit cards that you need. Make a copy of all your cards before you leave home.



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- Be aware of your surroundings and who may be listening to your conversations. This includes travel routes and the amount of cash you are carrying.

Vehicle Rental and Security

- When renting a vehicle, pick one that you are familiar with, or take time to see where the lights, brakes, turn signals, windshield wipers, and spare tire are and how they work.
- Try to avoid renting a vehicle at night. Stay in the hotel and rent it in the morning.
- Always lock your vehicle when entering or exiting it.
- Park in well-lighted, busy areas and check the inside and surrounding area before entering the vehicle.
- Always lock valuables out of sight. Don't leave wallets, checkbooks, purses, computers, IPOD's, and GPS's in your vehicle.
- Do not advertise that you are a tourist. Place maps and travel brochures in the glove compartment.
- If you do become lost, drive to a public place to check the map or ask directions. Don't stop along a street or the highway.